

FOREWORD

The Commonwealth of Virginia Hazardous Materials and Terrorism Consequence Management Plan integrates the previous Oil and Hazardous Materials Plan, Volume 4, and the Terrorism Consequence Management Plan, Volume 8, and includes a section on Environmental Crimes. This plan applies to all state, regional, and local government agencies responding to oil and hazardous materials incidents, environmental crimes and actual, threatened, or suspected acts of terrorism. Oil and hazardous materials incidents may be associated with fixed facilities or one or more of the various transportation modes. These events may or may not be accidental. Consequently, this plan is designed to provide a framework to address incidents or events that involve hazardous materials that may initially be categorized as being accidental or naturally occurring but may evolve into criminal acts or acts of terrorism as information is developed during or following the response to the event(s). This requires constant adjustments to the response organization, plans and procedures, protective actions, and resource needs as the incident develops. The plan is designed to address each type of hazard, as well as the evolution of the categorization of the incident from accidental to criminal to intentional that may occur in the response.

This plan is structured to quickly adapt to and meet the challenges of these situations by adopting the National Incident Management System's (NIMS) consistent and flexible framework within which government and private entities at all levels can work in a coordinated manner to manage incidents. This framework facilitates adjusting, tailoring, and transitioning response operations to effectively address a broad spectrum of situations.

The plan incorporates and integrates elements of the National Response Plan, the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, the Strategic National Stockpile Program, and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (SARA Title III). These plans, programs and legislation were precipitated by events that determined their focus. However, each of these plans builds on and complements the initiatives of the other and together provide a comprehensive, multi-agency, tiered approach to events that involve hazardous materials that may or may not rise to the level of Incidents of National Significance.

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